



Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference GP-2-9WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/009207	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 July 2003 (18.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61K 35/78, 35/74, A61P 1/10, 43/00, A23L 1/30		
Applicant TOYO R & D INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 02 October 2003 (02.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 28 January 2004 (28.01.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/009207

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:
 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
 contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/09207

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	2, 3, 7	YES
	Claims	1, 4-6	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	7	YES
	Claims	1-6	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: Shipin Kexue (Beijing), 2000, Vol. 21, No. 10, pp. 41-43
 Chemical Abstracts. Abst. No. 134:221718

Document 2: Microbial Ecology Health and Disease, (March 2002), Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 4-13

Document 3: JP 2003-12537 A (Kyusai Kabushiki Kaisha) January 15, 2003 (Family: none)

Document 4: JP 2002-204669 A (Kabushiki Kaisha Toyo Shin'yaku) July 23, 2002 (Family: none)

Documents 1-4 were cited in the international search report.

In addition to the above, the following document is newly cited in this international preliminary examination report.

Document 5: JP 63-14680 A (Fujicco Co., Ltd.) January 21, 1988 (Family: none)

Documents 1 and 5 above describe producing a food product by pulverizing lotus root and performing lactic acid fermentation thereupon, and therefore the inventions of claims 1 and 4-6 lack novelty and an inventive step.

In the preparation of food products, it was conventional practice before the filing of this application to dry ingredients at -30°C to 70°C and to perform processing at a temperature higher than 100°C, and therefore, such practice can be applied as needed by persons skilled in the art when performing lactic acid fermentation of lotus root. Moreover, this examination finds no statement in the Description of a critical effect provided by performing processing at those temperatures. Therefore, based on the descriptions in documents 1 and 5 the inventions of claims 2 and 3 are obvious to persons skilled in the art. As a result, the inventions of claims 2 and 3 lack an inventive step.

Documents 1-5 above do not describe the invention of claim 7, and this examination finds that the matter described therein is not obvious. Therefore, the invention of claim 7 is novel and involves an inventive step.